(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/034867 A3

(51) International Patent Classification7:

- A61B 17/04
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB2003/004489

- (22) International Filing Date: 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 2002/8423

17 October 2002 (17.10.2002) ZA

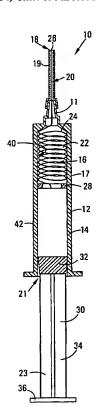
- (71) Applicant and
- (72) Inventor: RöSCH, Theodor, Gerhard [ZA/ZA]; 45 Tsessebe Lane, Monument Park, 0181 Pretoria (ZA).
- (74) Agent: MACKENZIE, Colin; Adams & Adams, Adams & Adams Place, 1140 Prospect Street, Hatfield, P.O.Box 1014, 0001 Pretoria (ZA).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- with amended claims

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A METHOD OF FEEDING A SUTURE ELEMENT



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a method of feeding a suture element (24), which method includes using fluid pressure to displace the suture element (24). The invention extends to a suture element feeding device (10) which includes a body (12) defining a fluid flow path (20) and a fluid inlet (502) whereby a fluid under pressure can be fed into the fluid flow path (20). The body (12) further defines a suture element inlet whereby a suture element (24) can be fed into the fluid flow path (20) for displacement along the fluid flow path (20) together with the fluid, and an outlet (18) whereby the fluid and suture element (24) can be fed from the device (10), the fluid flow path (20) connecting the fluid inlet (502), the suture element inlet and the outlet (18) in flow communication. The invention relates also to a medical implement.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: $1\ July\ 2004$

Date of publication of the amended claims: 26 August 2004

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.